

Remarks

The present Request for Continued Examination, including this Submission, is being filed after appeal but before a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (see MPEP 706.07(h)(X)).

A Notice of Appeal was filed on May 3, 2006; an Appeal Brief was filed on June 30, 2006; and an Examiner's Answer was mailed on September 13, 2006.

As advised in MPEP 706.07(h)(X), Applicants' undersigned attorney telephoned Examiner Lee the week of October 9, 2006, to advise the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences that the present RCE was being filed in the above-mentioned patent application under appeal. Examiner Lee acknowledged the filing of the RCE and indicated that the Board did not need to be notified since the time period for an Applicants' Reply to the Examiner's Answer had not yet expired.

Claim Amendments Previously Filed After Final Rejection

Per MPEP 706.07 (h)(III)(D), please enter the amendments previously filed after Final Rejection according to the instructions below.

A Final Rejection was mailed on February 3, 2006, in connection with the above-identified patent application.

In Response, a First Reply was filed on April 3, 2006, amending claim 24 and canceling claim 30. It is respectfully requested that these claim amendments in the First Reply NOT BE ENTERED.

A Second Reply was filed on May 3, 2006, canceling claims 24-27, 30, and 31. It is respectfully requested that these claim amendments in the Second Reply BE ENTERED.

Accordingly, claims 1-15 are pending.

A claim listing of pending claims 1-15 can be seen in the Appendix of Section VIII of the Appeal Brief filed on June 30, 2006, in connection with the above-identified patent application.

Incorporation of Previously Filed Arguments

Per MPEP 706.07(h)(II) and (X), please incorporate the following arguments that were previously submitted after the Final Rejection that was mailed February 3, 2006:

- A) The arguments filed on April 3, 2006, with respect to claims 1-15; and
- B) The arguments in the Appeal Brief filed June 30, 2006.

Information Disclosure Statement

U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0095870 (Park), listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449, is presented pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56.

Applicants note the present patent application is a divisional application of U.S. Serial Number 10/271,525 ('525), and that the Park reference was cited in the '525 application on an 892 form mailed June 22, 2006. In addition, Applicants note that the '525 application is being examined by a different Examiner.

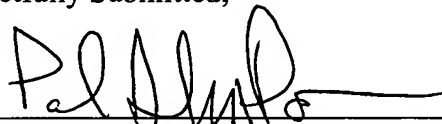
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the application in view of the amendments and remarks above.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the claims and the present application are in condition for allowance. Approval of the application and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited. In the event that a phone conference between the examiner and the Applicant's undersigned attorney would help resolve any remaining issues in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: Oct. 18, 2006

By: 
Paul John Parins, Reg. No. 54,358
Customer Number 33072
Phone: 651-275-9831
Facsimile: 651-351-2954